

## Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 JUSE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

/013 W

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R 061520Z SEP 74  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2838  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, CPRS, SW  
SUBJECT: EXTRADITION - LEIF LINDZEN

REF: STATE 188980

1. SUMMARY: LINDZEN REGAINED SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP  
AUGUST 8, AND IS THUS UNEXTRADITABLE. HE HAS VISITED  
EMBASSY AND OFFERED TO RETURN TO US VOLUNTARILY, BUT  
WE ARE NOT CONVINCED OFFER IS SINCERE. MEANWHILE SWEDISH  
AUTHORITIES ARE DECIDING WHETHER TO TRY HIM HERE OR NOT.

END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY NOTIFIED OF DENIAL OF  
EXTRAIDITON OF LINDZEN, BUT WE HAVE RECIEVED COPY OF  
PAPER GRANTING HIM SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP AS OF AUGUST 8  
WHICH MAKES HIM IPSO FACTO UNEXTRADITABLE. ACCORDING TO  
MFA EXTRADITION CHIEF THORNBERG, SINCE THE CASE IS NOW  
ROUTINE AND LINDZEN IS FREE, IT IS PROBABLE THAT IT HAS  
BEEN MOVED TO A VERY LOW PRIORITY ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA  
AND THAT FORMAL DECISION MIGHT BE DELAYED.

3. LINDZEN VISITED EMBASSY SEPT. 3 AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE.  
HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY TWO EMBOFFS WHO TOLD HIM BEFORE THE  
INTERVIEW THAT ANYTHING HE SAID MIGHT BE USED AGAINST HIM  
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IN FUTURE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS. HE THEN INFORMED EMBOFFS

THAT HE INTENDS TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY TO THE US TO STAND TRIAL. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTRY GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS UNTIL HE WAS ARRESTED IN SWEDEN. AFTER READING THE DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE PRESENTED TO THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXTRADITION REQUEST, WHICH WERE SHOWN TO HIM BY THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES, LINDZEN SAID THAT HE WAS NOT GUILTY OF MOST OF THE COUNTS BUT SAID, "YES, I AM GUILTY OF SOME OF THEM. I HAVE MESSED UP. I REALIZE THAT. IT'S A QUESTION OF MONEY. I DID BREAK THE LAW.... NOW I AM WILLING TO GO AND FACE IT, ALTHOUGH I KNOW THAT IT PROBABLY MEANS A PRISON SENTENCE."

4. QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS SPECIFIC INTENTIONS, LINDZEN SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO GO BACK TO WORK AS A LONGSHOREMAN IN HELSINGBORG UNTIL HE SAVED UP ABOUT 20,000 SWEDISH CROWNS. THIS SHOULD TAKE 4-6 MONTHS. HE WOULD ALSO SELL

HIS HOUSE AND CAR. WITH MONEY THUS PROVIDED TO SUPPORT HIS WIFE (A SWEDISH CITIZEN BUT RESIDENT ALIEN OF US) AND DAUGHTER (BORN IN US), HE WOULD THEN BE WILLING TO RETURN TO US. IN SUCH EVENT HE WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THE US AS AN IMMIGRANT SO THAT HE MIGHT EVENTUALLY REGAIN HIS US CITIZENSHIP. EMBOFF DISCUSSED VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES OF BOTH IMMIGRANT AND IMMIGRANT VISAS, ALSO ASKED LINDZEN

THAT, IF HE WISHED TO RETURN TO US JURISDICTION VOLUNTARILY, THERE WOULD BE NO HINDRANCE.

5. LINDZEN STATED THAT THE ONLY REASON HE APPLIED TO REGAIN HIS SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP WAS TO GET OUT OF PRISON, AND THIS MOVE WAS DONE ON THE ADVICE OF HIS LAWYER IN JULY AFTER HE HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AT REQUEST OF USG. SINCE HE HAD RETURNED TO SWEDEN IN MARCH 1972, HE SAID, HE COULD HAVE REGAINED HIS SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR IF HE HAD HAD INTENTIONS OF PERMANENTLY RESIDING IN SWEDEN.

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6. LINZEN TOLD TWO EMBOFFS THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT HE COULD BE TRIED IN SWEDEN FOR CRIMES COMMITTED IN US, BUT ASKED IF SUCH PROCEEDINGS COULD BE DELAYED IF HE AGREED TO RETURN TO US VOLUNTARILY. EMBOFFS REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NO AUTHORITY TO GIVE SUCH ASSURANCES, OR EVEN TO DISCUSS SUCH A MATTER. LINDZEN THEN ASK IF HE COULD GET A DELAY IF HE GAVE A SPECIFIC DATE, FLIGHT NUMBER,

ETC., UPON WHICH HE WOULD RETURN TO US, WHICH WOULD BE GUARANTEED BY HIS SWEDISH LAWYER. (HE SAID HE HAS NO LAWYER IN CALIFORNIA BUT IS ENBWUVORING TO OBTAIN ONE.) EMBOFFS WERE AGAIN NONCOMMITAL.

7. EMBOFFS LATER DISCUSSED LINDZEN CASE WITH MFA EXTRA-DITION CHIEF TORNBORG WHO GAVE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS REQUESTED REFTEL: (A) DECISION TO TRY LINDZEN HERE IS STRICTLY A SWEDISH JUSTICE MINISTRY DECISION AND DOES NOT DEPEND UPON THE WISHES OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE USG, ALTHOUGH IF HE IS TRIED HERE THE COOPERATION OF THE USG IS VIRTUALLY ESSENTIAL. (B) DESION TO TRY WILL BE MADE BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IN HELSINGBORG, WHO IS STUDYING THE MATTER AT THE MOMENT. (MRS. TORNBORG PROMISED TO CALL HIM TO FIND OUT STATUS.) (C) ALL EXPENSES IN REGARD TO TRIAL WILL BE BORNE BY SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, EVEN TRANSPORT AND SUBSISTENCE OF WITNESSES IF PROSECUTOR DECIDES WITNESSES ARE DESIRABLE. (D) IN CASES OF THIS KIND DEPOSITIONS ARE USUALLY SUFFICIENT. (E) IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR FROM ALAMEDA COUNTY TO CONFER WITH PROSECUTOR HERE AT SOME POINT, IF TRIAL IS DECIDED UPON, IN ORDER TO WORK OUT THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SWEDISH AND US LAWS AND RULES OF EVIDENCE. IN SUCH A CASE IT MIGHT BE REQUESTED THAT THE COSTS OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFICIAL BE PAID BY ALAMEDA COUNTRY.

8. COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO JUDGE WHETHER LINDZEN IS SERIOUSLY OFFERING TO RETURN TO THE US. THE TWO EMBOFFS WERE IMPRESSED WITH HIS EVIDENT SINCERITY, BUT UPON LATER REFLECTION AND RECALLING HIS RECORD OF APPARENT SWINDLING, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE IS JUST STALLING FOR TIME AND HAS NO INTENTION OF EVER RETURNING TO US JURISDICTION. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY EVENT, QUESTION OF HIS TRIAL HERE IS OUT OF OUR HANDS, AND WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INDICATING THAT WE WOULD NOT BE IN FAVOR OF SUCH A TRIAL. IT SEEMS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT LINDZEN WILL STAY IN SWEDEN FOR THE TIME BEING. HE HAS MANY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES HERE. WE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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